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of the Society of Friends - 1812

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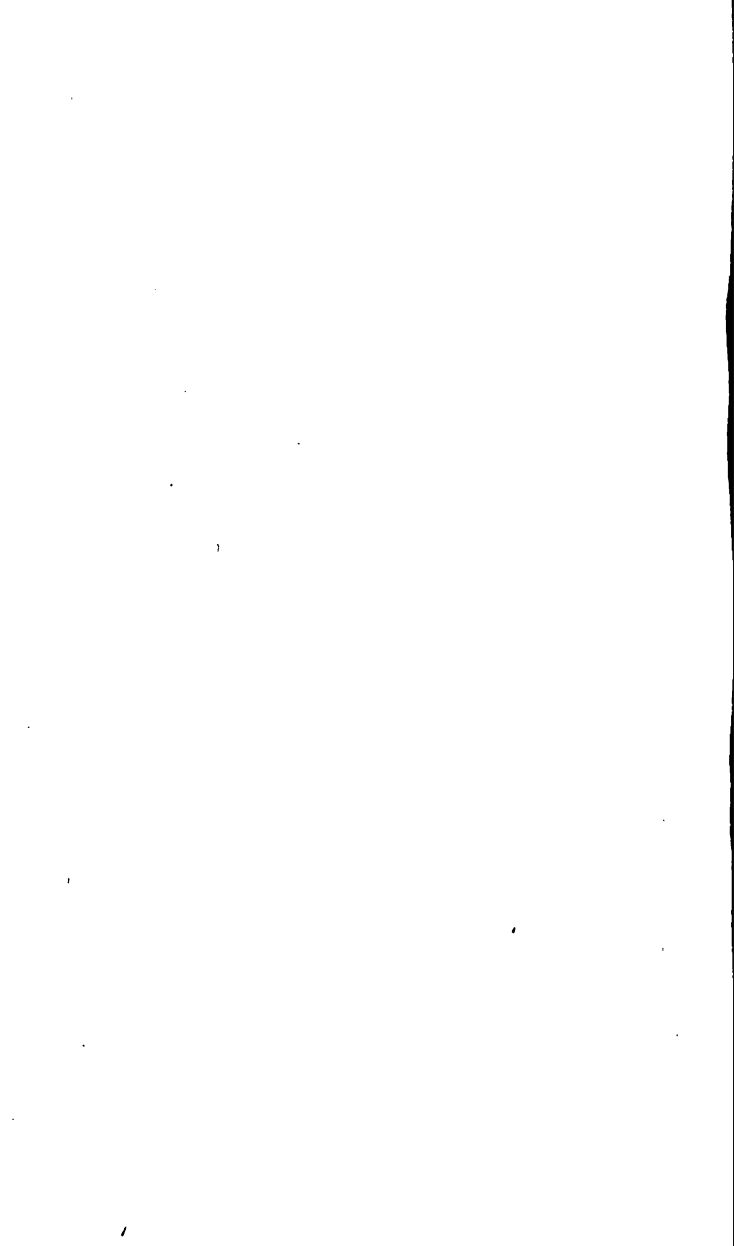
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Journal of
J. C. Smith
of
New York
1812



AN

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ADDRESS

TO THE

YOUTH

OF THE

SOCIETY OF FRIENDS

IN GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND,

ESPECIALLY THOSE

WHO ATTENDED THE YEARLY MEETING IN
LONDON IN 1812.

By HENRY HULL.

LONDON:

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1812.

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ADVERTISEMENT.

OUR friend HENRY HULL, who has found his mind engaged to write the following lines, received near the close of the Yearly Meeting of 1812, which in the course of his religious service he was attending, the sad intelligence of the decease of his Wife, together with that of his second Son and his own aged Mother : by means of a contagious disease in the parts of his residence, namely, Stanford in the State of New York. The afflicting news excited a general sympathy among his friends ; who were of course desirous to be somewhat more acquainted with particulars than they could be by report. To satisfy therefore in some degree this desire, as well as to express the tender feelings of his mind to the young people of our Society, the following address was penned whilst his mind remained softened with some of his early emotions of grief ; but warmed with true love for the objects of this his renewed concern,

as well as for his beloved friends in general, who have shewn him so much sympathy, and afforded him so much comfort and support in his present religious engagement.

AN

ADDRESS, &c.

ON receiving the sorrowful tidings from Stanford respecting the events of the 4th and 5th of the Fourth month, 1812, that occurred in my family, I have been very sorrowful. I hope, however, I have not offended, although the weakness of human nature may have been shewn: indeed, when I consider the example of our Holy Head, who was touched with a feeling of our infirmities, and was seen to weep at the tomb of Lazarus, I am rather disposed to think, it was as much tenderness of spirit that operated to the moistening of my eye-lids, as the weakness of human nature. Oh, what occasion for reflection! and in reflecting, is it possible to restrain the flowing tear? No: for me it is not; time and the remaining conflicts to be endured may in measure divert me from the sad scene, the awful event: but nothing will ever

be able whilst I have my senses, to efface the remembrance of the dear object now lost to me.

When I recur to the time of our first acquaintance and the formation of our union in the bands of marriage, I cannot but believe that as the servant of Abraham was directed by the favour of Heaven when seeking a wife for Isaac, so the goodness of Isaac's God was evident unto me : our union being formed under the serious consideration of the expediency of seeking a blessing, as our prospects of a settlement in the world were not flattering. There was no disposition on either side to deceive : we knew that although we had reputable parents, the calamities occasioned by the late war in America had been such, that they could do but little for us. They had taught us to look to Israel's God for a blessing, by seeking to serve Him in our day, and what better endeavours for our advantage could they have bestowed upon us, or what could they have given us of greater value to engage us to revere their memory, and to reflect upon their examples, so as to endeavour to follow them as they had followed Christ. My dear Sarah entered cheerfully as a helpmeet into the duties of a wife ; cross occurrences sometimes assailed us, which affected her tender mind, but I do not remember that she ever murmured ;

If she did, she was careful to conceal it from me. I often admired the turn she would give to these occurrences; and the pleasant way she had to keep me from being discouraged, always manifesting a willingness to continue in the necessary exertions; saying, 'Let us not seek for great things; if we can live comfortably and have it in our power to entertain travelling Friends, (privileges which she enjoyed in her Father's house) these are all the riches I crave; and to obtain so much, I am willing to labour early and late in the management of my domestic concerns, and more particularly, if it will be a means of leaving thee more at liberty to attend to thy religious engagements.' And through the blessing of the Lord, we have had it in our power, to entertain, in a plain way, those to whom she alluded, when they have called upon us; and I believe that no one ever did it with more cheerfulness than she did. We were so situated that we often had the company of Friends from a great distance out of the new Settlements, who came to attend the Quarterly Meetings; amongst these many were poor, and if I ever observed any partiality in her behaviour at such times, it was in shewing particular attention to these. I have sometimes pleasantly remarked this to her, when her reply

would be, 'I know how to feel with these: the rich have many friends.'

In the Twenty-seventh year of my age, I first commenced travelling in the service of the ministry, being then in a small way of business, which necessarily occupied my attention closely when at home; and having several little dependants, it was a trial of my faith at times to leave her with the care that devolved upon her in my absence: but she was so far from holding me back, that she encouraged me to attend to religious duties, saying, 'If thou neglect thy religious duties, we may not prosper in the world, and however much I miss thee when from home, I had rather thou shouldst go than stay. I often feel a sweet union with thee when thou art absent; and sometimes partake with thee not only in suffering, but in thy consolations also.' And such was her prudence and care, in providing for these journeys, that I seldom took any thought about my apparel, always finding that she had provided every thing necessary for my use. As a mother she was prudent in the management and government of her children, habituating them early to industry, considering it not only necessary to enable them to provide for their subsistence, but also conducive to health; yet tenderly

careful to watch over them, so as to contribute to their comfort; saying, 'Too much should not be required of children; I feel much for them in their tender years, and would rather over-exert myself than require too much of them.' Her children were particularly attached to her, and in them she was comforted. As a friend she was firm, slow to believe a report to the disadvantage of any one; truly a peace-maker; much respected in the neighbourhood where she was best known; and I believe every person who lived near her and was acquainted with her, would join me in this testimony to her disposition to promote peace and good-will. Although she had it not in her power to manifest by great liberality, her feeling for the poor, yet her acts of charity were evident; by visiting them in their sickness, as well as by the little she administered to their wants; so that when I consider the Widow's mite was accepted, I trust she was not deficient as a Steward.

About the Thirty-first year of her age she first appeared in the ministry, and although for several years she was not frequent or large in public testimony, she was, I believe, always acceptable to her friends; and her appearances during the last six years of her life, when she laboured in the service of the ministry, were more conspicuous.

She was almost destitute of human learning, the extent of her education consisting in being able to read in her mother-tongue, and to write very poorly; being as well as myself quite unacquainted with the rules of grammar; yet seeking early, she found the Beloved of souls, and becoming subject to his power, knew his authority to be lovingly exercised over his people; and submitting thereunto, she could say with the apostle in her religious services, "The love of Christ constraineth us:" and thus in the school of Christ she became instructed as a good scribe to bring forth out of his treasury, "things both new and old;" that some who did not know to the contrary, thought she had had all the advantages resulting from a liberal education. She was, however, sensible that she lay under great disadvantages, particularly in maintaining an epistolary correspondence with her friends, and in one of her last letters to me, she said, she was comforted in thinking that the rising generation would not labour under the same disadvantages she did. It would be well for those who have much pains taken to accomplish them, if they would early submit to the government of Jesus, that so they might know his sanctifying power to prepare them for services that exalt the standard.

of Truth in the earth. I often regret that those who are so tenderly cared for, as many of our young Friends are in this day, should forget their privileges and stand aloof from the humble paths that lead to peace. "Take my yoke upon you and learn of me, for I am meek and lowly in heart; and ye shall find rest unto your souls: for my yoke is easy and my burden is light." Oh! were the rising generation to accept this persuasive invitation from the Messiah, how would they come forth "as an army with banners," turning "to flight the armies of the aliens!" for have not too many even of the professors of Christianity become alienated from Christ and his government, so that they are making "the Cross of Christ of none effect?" which is nevertheless the wisdom of God, that brings "to nothing the understanding of the prudent. Where is the wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the disputer of this world? hath not God made foolish the wisdom of this world?" Is not this manifest, that "not many wise men after the flesh; not many mighty, not many noble are called?" So that however useful learning is, when subservient to the power of the Gospel, it should not be depended upon. My heart has been often moved in tenderness towards

the rising generation whilst travelling in this land, with desires that they may consider and justly appreciate their privileges.

Many of you are in easy circumstances; and some of you are exposed to the dangers and temptations of affluence. I have here presented to your view the example of one I dearly loved: and, as I believe, many of you have tenderly sympathized with me, and have manifested a love for me whilst amongst you; I trust you will excuse my freedom in presenting you with this token of the continuance of my dear love.

Whilst my mind has been closely beset with the discouragements that present in the prospect of returning to my once pleasant home, where sorrow now reigns, (perhaps encreasingly from subsequent devastations,) caused by the raging pestilence, that has recently deprived me not only of my chiefest earthly joy, but likewise of our dear Son, my aged Mother, and my Brother-in-law; I have looked carefully at the motives that induced me to leave them. I have perused all their letters written to me, which I had not destroyed, and whilst silent meditation has admitted many occurrences to be reviewed, my spirit has at times witnessed an awful silence—a holy solemnity: and I dare not conclude it

have been out of my place in leaving my family, notwithstanding I shall never more see some of them in mutability:

May you now, in the bloom of your days, think of the importance of a well-spent life, and if you are not called into public service, as some have been that are gone before you, consider how you are spending your time: is it to advance the cause of truth and righteousness; or is it merely to gratify yourselves? When at your toilets shrink not at the idea of death, which when reflected upon sometimes preserves from pride. When poring over light and trifling publications, with which the present age abounds, or when using the pencil or the needle merely to amuse, think whether your time might not be more profitably spent in reading the Scriptures, with other pious writings, or useful publications; in working for the poor of your respective neighbourhoods, visiting the sick, and administering to their wants. I believe that such engagements in a greater or less degree, afford the sensible mind solid satisfaction, and promote reflections, which encourage to a continuance in the way of well-doing; and may keep you from the dangers, in which those are involved who seek to gratify themselves in vain and idle amusements.

By these laudable pursuits the mind also becomes prepared for usefulness, in the promotion of the cause of religion, to the glory of God, to the comforting of his people, and to the acknowledgment that Christ's yoke is easy and his burden light. I love you, and am comforted in believing that many of you love the Truth, and are yielding obedience to its restraining power. Dear children, hold on your way, regard not the scorn of the scorner, nor the supercilious brow of the wicked. Suffer not the example of the libertine, nor of the slothful, to draw you aside from following Him, who leadeth in ways of pleasantness, and in paths of peace. There are indeed tribulations to be endured in Time, but unto those who live in the fear of the Lord the encouraging language still remains, "Be of good cheer, I have overcome the world." Thus it is that the humble follower of the Lamb is encouraged to hope, that the trials he meets with may work together for good, even to his further refinement and purification.

O! that this may be the case with you; and with your real friend,

HENRY HULL.

*Plasht, near London,
3d of Sixth month, 1812.*

THE following narrative of the afflicting circumstances which gave rise to the preceding address, is extracted with very little variation, from a letter from Ruth Hallock to her friend Henry Hull, dated Stanford, 16th of Fourth month, 1812.

“ I shall now endeavour to give thee the best information of which I am capable, of a very trying visitation that seems spreading over our land, and to have fallen heavily on the neighbourhood of Stanford. The physicians call it a malignant pleurisy, or inflammation on the lungs. The first that fell a victim in our neighbourhood was Henry Clapp, who was on a visit to his mother, he died about the 20th of Second month ; after which it seemed to spread towards the neighbourhood of Stanford, and up and about John Gifford's. His wife was very ill and her recovery was quite despaired of for some time. Thy precious Sarah was with her several days until she gave hopes of recovery ; she then returned home, visited the sick, and comforted the mourners, after which she attended the funeral of Obadiah Height, about the 20th of Third month, where I understood she appeared in the exercise of her gift to the comfort of many present. About this time

thy aged mother was taken ill, she departed this life the 25th of Third month; we attended her funeral which was very solemn, and things appeared very alarming, after which we went to see thy wife and her dear children. We found her violently seized with the prevailing epidemic; on going into the room she seemed glad to see us, and said, "I am very sick, never so sick before, but trust I am prepared for it, I have expected it. If my dear Henry was here——— but what could he do more, every thing is done that can be done. I have kind friends, kind affectionate children: I am perfectly contented in my situation." I said, if dear Henry could view the situation we are in at Stanford, he would feel very anxious: she paused a moment and said, "It is very possible he may have some sense of it." I do not remember that she ever mentioned thy name in my hearing afterwards, and although she had to endure much pain and affliction of body, yet her mind appeared perfectly calm, sweet, and pleasant, abounding with love to every one, so that her company was truly pleasant, often saying she now enjoyed the fruits of her former labours; and that what she then enjoyed, was worth more than all the world besides, saying, "I am now convinced that I have not been following cunningly de-

‘vised fables, but living and substantial Truth.’ Her mind seemed often humbled under a sense of the favours she enjoyed. Having many of her friends about her, I felt anxious to come to thy brother John’s, whose wife and sister, and many others in the neighbourhood, were very sick with the same disorder. I left her on Sixth-day the 27th, and did not return until Second-day following. On going into the room she appeared cheerful and pleasant, although very much reduced. She continued so through the day. Thy dear son John seemed poorly that evening, next morning he seemed better. His mother rested pretty well, between her fits of coughing her company was very interesting, frequently repeating some passage of Scripture, or a line or two of poetry. Her love seemed to flow towards all, especially to her friends around her. After I had turned her in bed, she said, ‘Dear Ruth, thee and I have travelled together through different parts in near unity, I have loved thee as a sister, yes, as a mother. I am afraid I shall wear thee out.’ The latter part of the night she appeared a little better, and the next morning she seemed free from pain, but weak and low. About ten o’clock thy daughter Dorcas on seeing her so weak seemed very much affected; she said, ‘Dear Dorcas, don’t

'be troubled; don't weep, we have much to be
 'thankful for; many poor things in this trying
 'time have hardly any thing for their comfort;
 'we have enough of every thing around us, and
 'kind friends who are willing to do any thing for
 'us: we must not complain, we must expect to
 'share sickness with our friends. I do not com-
 'plain, I am contented, and willing to endure the
 'turning and termination of it.' After which she
 lay and slept quietly, and continued so through-
 the day. Towards evening I returned home with
 a comfortable hope that she was a little better.
 I found my family complaining, and did not return
 until Fifth-day, 2nd of Fourth-month. We went
 to meeting with the few Friends that were able to
 get out; and after meeting I went again to see
 her, found her very weak and low, and John very
 sick, we began to apprehend him in danger, me-
 dical aid was obtained early, but all to no purpose,
 he seemed restless, and his pain was very excru-
 ciating. Sixth-day thy wife was more poorly,
 appeared to have more fever, and in the afternoon
 complained of pain in her side; but we still
 entertained hopes that she would be raised again:
 but, alas! our hopes were frustrated. Judith
 Gurney and myself sat up with her that night.
 About ten o'clock, after the family had retired, we

perceived an alteration. We were alarmed, and called the physician, who soon came; at first he thought the change was in consequence of debility; and that giving her stimulants would revive her; but the difficulty of breathing increased; the family were then called; and she peacefully and quietly expired without any apparent struggle. As she lived beloved, so she died lamented by us all. I found it hard to give up so near and dear a friend on my own account, but when I thought of thee and the children, as also the neighbourhood at a time when so many were sick, my feelings indeed baffled all description.

“ Dear John at that moment lay very sick in an adjoining room; I soon went in to see him, he looked at me with an expressive countenance, and said, ‘ It is impossible for me to get well without a miracle, and on my own account I am willing to die, but on the account of my dear brothers and sisters, I should be willing to live longer. My faith and confidence is in the mercies of my dear Redeemer.’ After which he appeared mostly sensible, and perfectly resigned, and was enabled to arrange his business to good satisfaction.* I was not much with him

* Although he was only in the twenty-fourth year of his age, he was engaged in a considerable line of business, and in addition

afterwards, being quite indisposed myself with a slight touch of the prevailing disorder, therefore must leave further information, except that he died the next day.

In addition to the foregoing narrative Henry Hull has received two letters from his Daughter, Boreas Coleman, of which the following are extracts :

13th of Fourth month, 1812.

"Our family remained in a state of usual health until about the 19th of last month, when my ever-

theater, he undertook the oversight of his father's concerns, in order to set him at liberty for religious service. This weight of care seemed now to press forcibly upon his mind ; so that, after giving his brother discussion about his affairs, which, he said, he considered it his duty to do, and felt satisfaction in having done, he advised him to give up all ambitious prospects ; to contrive some easy way of procuring a livelihood, and to be content : herein evincing a mind in a suitable situation justly to appreciate the value of time, and that whilst he saw the necessity of providing for a comfortable subsistence, he felt the inconvenience of having his mind charged with much incumbrance at such an awful crisis.

The advice given to his brother is not only worthy of his strict observance, but may be useful to others who may be just entering on the concerns of life, and is consonant with the words of the Prophet Jeremiah, " Seekest thou great things for thyself ? " Seek them not."

His father feels it a tribute due to the memory of his son to subjoin this note.

loved mother complained of an extreme pain in her head; she, however, kept up until the 21st. After returning from O. Height's funeral, she took her bed: she sat up a little the two following days. On the Fourth-day evening she appeared so unwell, we called in medical assistance. I was the only one up with her that night, and feeling alarmed, she told me she was prepared for death, if it pleased her Divine Master to call her; and was as well satisfied in thy being in thy place as if thou stood by her bed-side; hoped thou wouldst hold on thy way, and be favoured to return to us again—it would have been consoling to her to live till that event, but she was resigned."

Fourth month, 24th, 1812.

"During the time of my dear Mother's illness, and often, yes, very often since, I have had to revert to the time of our parting, when in solemn supplication my dear deceased Parent craved the protection of Heaven for thee, the partner of her life: and in humble resignation expressed her willingness, that it should rest a secret in the Divine sight whether your farewell was to be final or not; and also her desire, that, whether you ever met again or not, all might be done in

life and in death, to the glory of God. Ah ! that was a time never to be forgotten as long as life and recollection are lengthened out to me, who then did, and still do, feel the great need there is of having the mind stayed on that which will support, when all outward consolation fails."

THE END.



